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E.O. 12065: GDS 11/12/86 (HAVERKAMP, R) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: SEAGA SEEKS RESIGNATIONS OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

1. (U) PRIMIN EDWARD SEAGA, SPEAKING AFTER THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF HIS CABINET ON NOVEMBER 7, CALLED ONTHE HEADS OF ALL STATUTORY BOARDS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (OF WHICH THERE ARE SOME TWO HUNDRED) TO SUBMIT THEIR RESIGNATIONS. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THESE RESIGNATIONS WERE NECESSARY SO THAT THESE BOARDS AND AGENCIES WOULD MORE CLOSELY REFLECT THE POLICIES OF THE JLP GOVERNMENT. SEAGA CLAIMED THAT HE WAS NOT PLANNING ANY "CLEAN SWEEP" OF THE PEOPLE NOW HEADING THESE BOARDS BUT WAS ONLY EXERCISING HIS RIGHT AS PRIME MINISTER, AS WELL AS TRYING TO AVOID THE STIGMA WHICH COULD RESULT FROM REVOCATION OF THESE APPOINTMENTS. MANY OF THOSE WHO HAD SERVED WITH "MERIT" HE INDICATED WOULD BE ASKED TO STAY ON.

2. (U) SEAGA CITED THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOND (A CIVIL SERVICE-TYPE COMMISSION) AND THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD

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AS AGENCIES WHICH WERE IN GREAT NEED OF NEW,NON-PARTISAN LEADERSHIP. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED TO CHANGE THE HEADS OF THESE BOARDS WAS IN KEEPING WITH HIS PLEDGE TO REMOVE THE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF POLICEMEN AND CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE REALM OF PARTISAN POLITICS. SEAGA SAID HIS FULL PLANS FOR THESE TWO BOARDS WOULD REQUIRE A CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND THAT PRIOR TO PROCEEDING HE WISHED TO CONSULTTHE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. IN THE INTERIM, THE NEW PRIMIN WILL PROPOSE NEW MEMBERS TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TWO AGENCIES.

3. (U) CHARGES IN SOME PUBLIC AGENCIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, TWO GROUPS SEAGA REPEATEDLY

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CRITICIZED DURING THE CAMPAIGN, SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTIONS. THE ENTIRE BOARD OF THE JAMAICA RAILROAD CORPORATION DID THE SAME. THE PRIMIN DEMANDED AND RECEIVED THE RESIGNATIONS OF THREE PERMANENT SECRETARIES (CLOVIS MCLEAN OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, EASTON LOUGLAS OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, AND LOUIS LINDSAY OF THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT). THE POLICEMEN WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION OF THE JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE ARE BEING TRANSFERRED TO ROUTINE ASSIGNMENTS. AFTER THE POLICE INVOLVED COMPLAINED THAT THE MOVE WAS TANTAMOUNT TO A DEMOTION AND LEFT THEM WITHOUT SELF PROTECTION. IT WAS DECIDED TO ALLOW THEM TO CARRY A GUN. THE PREVIOUS HEAD OF THE PROTECTIVE FORCES DIVISION, A FORMER BODY GUARD TO MICHAEL MANLEY, WAS ALSO REPLACED.

4. (C) COMMENT. WHILE SOME MAY CRY "POLITICAL VICTIMIZATION." IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT SEAGA TO REMOVE

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FROM PUBLIC POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN STRONGLY PNP AND ARE NOT CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS. THERE IS NO TRADITION IN JAMAICA FOR APPOINTEES TO PUBLIC POSITIONS TO RESIGN WHEN A NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTTRATION HAD PLACED MANY OF ITS SUPPORTERS IN THESE POSITIONS, AND SEAGA CLEARLY WANTS TO MOVE OUT THOSE MOST CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTY AND THOSE LEAST COMPATIBLE WITH THE POLICIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE AFFECTED AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO RUN UNDER THEIR PRESENT DIRECTOR UNTIL RESIGNATION ARE ACCEPTED AND WITH THEIR CIVIL SERVANT STAFFS. AND SEAGAHAS SAID HE WOULD KEEP ON MANY WHO ARE EXPERIENCES AND IN HIS VIEW HAVE PERFORMED WELL. SEAGA IS EXPECTED TO KEEP ON MANY IF NOT MOST PERMANENT SECRETARIS THE POSITION WHICH IS THE PINACLE OF A CAREER FOR A JANAICAN CIVIL SERVANT AND WILL ANNOUNCE HIS SELECTIONS NEXT WEEK. THE SHAKEUP IN THE JCF WAS NOT UNEXPECTED AS THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES BRANCH HAD FUNCTIONED AS A VIRTUAL PRAETORIAN GUARD FOR THE FORMER GOVERNMENT AND MANY OF ITS MEMBERS HAD BECOME HEAVILY INVOLVED IN POLICIES. THERE IS GROWING SPECULATION THAT POLICE COMMISSIONER BILL BOWES MAY EVENTUALLY BE REPLACED, POSSIBLY BY SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT JOE WILLIAMS WHO HAS A REPUTATION FOR HARD WORK, EFFICIENCY AND PRO-JLP VIEWS.

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